Ontario

Office of the Deputy Minister
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Ministry of Health
Ministère de la Santé

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March 6, 1992

Mr. Chris Brown
Ottawa Branch President
Allergy and Environmental Health Association
Box 11428
Station H
Nepean, Ontario
K2H 7V1

Dear Mr. Brown:

Thank you for your letter of February 17 regarding activities of the Ministry of Health with regard to community needs of persons with environmental sensitivities.

I am sorry to hear that you have some concerns about the attitudes of some members of my staff regarding persons with environmental sensitivities. I can assure you that it is the policy of this Ministry to treat people with environmental sensitivities with dignity and respect and to assure that they have access to necessary and effective health care, as do all residents of Ontario.

You have specific concerns about the activities of the Public Health Branch regarding persons with environmental sensitivities. The responsibility for the administration of public health programs lies with local boards of health and medical officers of health. The Health Protection and Promotion Act, 1983 requires Medical Officers of Health to be informed about matters of environmental health. This Act gives the Medical Officer of Health the authority to issue orders to ameliorate health hazards.

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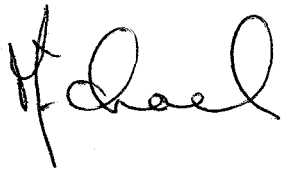
Mr. Chris Brown

The Mandatory Health Programs and Services Guidelines, 1989 require boards of health to provide programs that include the investigation of health problems related to environmental causes. If you know of instances where local boards of health are not living up to this legislated mandate, I suggest that you bring these to the attention of Dr. Richard Schabas (416-327-7392).

I hope we can continue to work together to deal with this challenging health issue.

Yours sincerely,



Michael B. Decter
Deputy Minister